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addition to elevations, the latitude and mean annual temperature of many localities. We notice some inaccuracies and omissions in comparing it with "Gannett's List of Elevations" published by Hayden's Survey, those relating to the heights of prominent mountains being inexcusable. These, with typographical and other errors, show that it should be consulted with some caution.

FLORA OF COLORADO.*—The inhabitants of the far west and eastern tourists will have reason to thank Dr. Hayden for the useful series of practical manuals of the natural history of the Rocky Mountains he is so energetically pushing on to completion. This synopsis, the first of the series, is very opportune, as it places in the hands of the tourist or botanist a ready means of identifying the plants of a region so rich in interest as Colorado. We only regret that the preliminary essay on the geographical distribution of the Rocky Mountain flora could not have appeared in the same volume.

The plan followed in the synopsis is that of Mr. Watson in his catalogue contained in the fifth volume of "King's Report on the Geology, etc., of the Fortieth Parallel." Descriptions are given of all the plants not mentioned in "Gray's Manual," "Chapman's Flora" and other floras of the eastern states.

The mosses and Hepaticæ have been elaborated by Mr. L. Lesquereux, the lichens by Mr. H. Willey, and the fungi by Mr. Peck, while the name of the author of the larger portion on Phanerogams is a sufficient guarantee of the quality of the work.

BOTANY.

ABNORMAL FORM OF *ALLOSORUS ACROSTICHOIDES*.—On a visit to Isle Royale, Michigan (Lake Superior), in August, 1873, I collected some nice specimens of that peculiar fern *Allosorus acrostichoides* Sprengel (*Cryptogramma acrostichoides* R. Br.). One large handsome plant I succeeded in transporting to Detroit, where it at present flourishes on a rockwork made for the purpose. It affords an instance of a curious abnormality which, I believe, has not hitherto been noticed in this fern. I refer to its producing fronds

*Synopsis of the Flora of Colorado. By Thomas C. Porter and John M. Coulter. Department of the Interior U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. F. V. Hayden, U. S. Geologist, in charge. Miscellaneous Publication, No. 4. Washington, 1874. 8vo, pp. 180.

in which the upper part is fertile, having the usual very narrow linear divisions, while the lower part, barren, has all the characteristics of the sterile frond with its "obovate decurrent and crenately toothed or incised segments." The abnormal frond is also quite as tall as the fertile fronds, which in this fern, it is well known, have always much taller stipes than the sterile fronds, lifting them high above the latter.

I was much gratified to behold this dainty graceful fern growing in its native haunts—its isolated home. It was now in full perfection, which was not the case at the time of my first visit to the island, in May. I observed that it generally grew in clefts or on shelves of the outcropping ridges of metamorphosed sandstone, partially shaded by trees, and always facing the south. It was invariably surrounded with a mass of *débris* largely formed of the decayed fronds of numerous previous generations of the fern, while the straw-like stipes of many years remained erect and dry encircling the plant below, and no doubt affording it valuable protection.—HENRY GILLMAN, *Detroit, Michigan*.

RUMEX PATIENTIA L.—This rumex is not mentioned in Wood's Botany, and the brief reference to it in the last edition of Gray's Manual in connection with Amherst, Mass., suggests that it is comparatively rare. It may therefore be interesting to botanists, to know that it is not uncommon in Amherst, and at least three of the neighboring towns, growing by the roadside or near dwellings. And when the writer was at Highgate Springs in northwestern Vermont during the past season, it was everywhere as abundant and apparently as much at home as any of our introduced rumices.—H. G. J.

THE NORTHERNMOST FLOWERING PLANTS.—Dr. Bessels, of Hall's Arctic expedition, collected according to a note in "Nature" by Dr. J. D. Hooker, four plants from the east side of Smith's Sound in latitude 82° N. They are *Draba alpina* L., *Cerastium alpinum* L., *Taraxacum dens-leonis* Def. var. and *Poa flexuosa* Wahl. This is the most northern locality where any phanerogamous vegetation has been found.

THE SMALL-FLOWERED PARNASSIA IN MICHIGAN.—In the summer of 1866, I made the interesting discovery of the small-flowered grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia parviflora* DC.), at White-fish Bay, Wisconsin, on the northwest shore of Lake Michigan. The

elegant little plants grew in patches of moss, in clefts of the rock, within reach of the spray from the lake.

As I was the first to discover this flower on Lake Michigan (in Wisconsin), so now, I believe, I am the first to find it in the state of Michigan, and thus have the pleasure of adding to its flora this somewhat rare plant. I found it to-day (August 1, 1873), growing rather abundantly on Grand Island, Michigan, along the high cliffs of red Potsdam sandstone overhanging Lake Superior. At this date some of the plants are in full flower, others have gone to seed, while a number have flower-buds still unexpanded.

I wish to call attention to the number of the sterile filaments in each set—so specific a distinction in this genus. Gray gives the number in *P. parviflora* as “about five in each set,” which corresponds, I think, with other descriptions. In a large number of specimens which I have to-day carefully examined, I find the sterile filaments from six to nine, and occasionally eleven in each set; but oftenest they are seven. This about agrees with my Lake Michigan plant. The flower is from five-eighths to three-fourths of an inch broad; and the petals are decidedly (generally one-fourth to one-third) longer than the calyx. The ovate or rather oblong leaves are somewhat heart-shaped at the base.

These Lake Superior plants, growing mostly on the soft and disintegrated sandstone, are of more luxuriant appearance than my specimens from Lake Michigan, which grew on limestone rock. I observed that matlike tufts of the plant, which had fallen from the beetling cliff, frequently took root and flourished on the beach below; though, doubtless, they are in such cases often swept away by the fierce waves of Lake Superior.

It seems to me that the Parnassias would make interesting garden plants, and prove easy of cultivation. Their cup-like flowers, of a delicate white finely veined with green, could not fail to be considered ornamental; while the lengthy period of blossoming would be an additional recommendation.—HENRY GILLMAN, *Detroit, Michigan*.

THE FRESH WATER ALGÆ OF NORTH AMERICA.—Students of our fresh water algæ will find in the beautiful and interesting work of Dr. H. C. Wood, Jr., “A Contribution to the History of the Fresh Water Algæ of North America,” a ready means of identifying their specimens. It is a large quarto volume, with many colored

plates, and is taken from the Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge.

APLECTRUM HYEMALE AGAIN.—Of the thirty plants of *Aplectrum hyemale* Nutt., transferred to my garden from the woods north of Detroit, on the 20th of April, 1873, mention of which has already been made in the NATURALIST, but two sent up flower scapes and of those but one came to perfection. The petals of this expanded on the 5th of June. The other scape proved abortive, the raceme not appearing from the sheath.

At the date of October 1st most of the new leaves of my plants were from one inch to three inches above ground, while some were only just protruding from the earth. The plants seem to be quite healthy.

Numerous communications, received from various places since the printing of my note, are mostly confirmatory of the opinion I had arrived at as to the rarity of the blossoming.

As a generally accepted opinion is that this plant is not found in Massachusetts, I would here say that I have lately been informed on reliable authority that there is but one known station for it in that state, viz., Amherst, where for two or three seasons it has been collected in flower.

I omitted mentioning in my former note that on June 30, 1870, I collected in our woods a single withered scape with pods, of the previous season, showing that the plant had flowered there in 1869.—HENRY GILLMAN, *Detroit, Michigan*.

DEVELOPMENT OF FERNS WITHOUT FERTILIZATION.—At a late meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Prof. Gray communicated a paper by his former pupil, Dr. W. G. Farlow, now in Germany, on the development of ferns from the prothallium irrespective of fertilization, by a sort of parthenogenesis. The growth observed took place, not from an archegonium, but from some other part of the prothallium.

LOBELIA SYPHILITICÆ VAR. ALBA.—In 1868 I found near Princeton, N. J., a single plant of *Lobelia syphilitica* v. *alba*, which must be very rare in this country. It was found among many other plants bearing blue flowers—though in this case they were *perfectly* white—and continued to bear white flowers for three years as did also the seedlings from this plant. After this time I lost sight of

the plants. Paxton (Bot. Dict.) instances the var. *alba*, but American authors do not look upon it as a permanent variety.—J. S. HOUGH.

ZOOLOGY.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—In the December number of the NATURALIST Mr. C. Hart Merriam, in remarking on *Contopus borealis*, states, that he obtained a fine specimen at Easthampton, Massachusetts, and asks if this species has ever been taken in Massachusetts before.

During the past three or four years I have observed each year several specimens of this beautiful flycatcher in the vicinity of Cambridge, Mass., and although I consider this a rare bird with us, I am inclined to think a few breed within the limits of the state every year. I have always observed it in May or June, though specimens have been captured here in the fall.

With us it is a very wary and shy species when it first arrives from the south, frequenting the topmost branches of tall trees, and its mild, clear notes can be heard at a long distance, but at the Umbagog Lakes, in Maine, where it breeds in numbers, it does not show nearly so much shyness as it exhibits during its northern migrations through Massachusetts. I have taken several specimens there in the course of a few hours.

On the 23d of June, 1873, I had an unusual opportunity of observing a pair of *Contopus borealis* in Belmont, Mass. For several days previous I had heard one of the flycatchers uttering its peculiar call from a hillside which was sparsely covered with firs.

On the above date, as I was passing that locality, I again heard the notes of this bird in nearly the same place, and thinking it must be breeding I approached in the direction of the sound, and soon saw the flycatcher in question sitting, in its erect posture, on the top of a small fir tree. I was surprised at the near approach it allowed me, as I was within a few yards of the tree before the bird took flight, though but for a short distance, however, as it alighted on the dead branch of a maple a few yards off, and was then joined by its mate. I then secreted myself in a clump of barberry bushes where I remained for some time watching them.

From the uneasiness the birds exhibited, I was convinced they had a nest in the immediate vicinity, though the locality was not particularly adapted for breeding, but although I searched dili-